



Access to AEDs Act

Endorsed by: *The American Heart Association, National Football League, Major League Baseball, National Hockey League, National Basketball Association, Women's National Basketball Association, National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, Major League Soccer, National Collegiate Athletic Association, John Taylor Babbitt Foundation, Who We Play For, Parent Heart Watch, Simon's Heart, Heart of the Game, Eric Paredes Save A Life Foundation, Youth Sports Safety Alliance/National Athletic Trainers' Association, National Alliance for Youth Sports, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, American Federation of School Administrators, and National Association of State EMS Officials*

Background

Annually, nearly 600,000 Americans suffer from Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) which has a less than six percent survival rate when occurring outside of the hospital setting. SCA is a life-threatening emergency that is caused by a malfunction in the heart's electrical system or structure, which can be caused by an abnormality from birth or one that develops over time. More than 7,000 youth under the age of 18 suffer from SCA annually in the United States, with student athletes being more than 3.5 times as likely to experience SCA than non-athletes. Survival from SCA more than doubles when a bystander uses a publicly available automated external defibrillator (AED) as compared to waiting for an AED shock after the arrival of emergency responders. The ***Access to AEDs Act*** would increase the training and availability of AEDs on school campuses.

On January 2, 2023, Buffalo Bills player Damar Hamlin experienced SCA during a game against the Cincinnati Bengals; medical staff on the field resuscitated him by initiating cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and using an AED, which saved his life.

Bill Summary

The ***Access to AEDs Act*** is a bipartisan bill that will direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to public and private elementary and secondary schools partnered with a nonprofit health care organization to develop and implement a comprehensive program to promote students' access to defibrillation in their schools. These funds can be used to:

- Purchase AEDs and their necessary batteries and maintenance.
 - Replace old and outdated CPR and AED equipment, machinery, and educational materials.
 - Provide CPR and AED training to students, staff, and related sports volunteers.
 - Develop a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan.
 - Assist schools' athletic departments in developing heart screening programs for student athletes.
 - Establish a clearinghouse database for the reporting of AED devices already in schools.
 - Establish a clearinghouse database to gather information on sudden cardiac arrest in the pediatric population for further research.
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